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TO : [REDACTED]  
Room 1301, "I" Building  
FROM : [REDACTED]  
OO, FDD, [REDACTED]  
SUBJECT: Evaluation of USSR Area Program

DATE: 9 Sept 52

1. I believe that an area training program, such as that given for the USSR, summer 1952, can contribute greatly to the effectiveness of our operations in FDD for these reasons: (1) it supplements our own basic knowledge of an area; (2) it helps us in regaining that over-all perspective which we tend to lose by working closely with materials published in an area; (3) a somewhat different approach by an outside lecturer not influenced by our opinions and attitudes is not only refreshing, but leads to a healthy re-examination of our own thinking.

Specifically, however, for those of us from the [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] a program dealing with our own areas would be more useful.

2. The program as given was useful to us in that it gave a historical development of communist political and economic theories. This knowledge is extremely useful in analyzing communist tactics in any area.

3. a. The scope of this program was good; i.e. a development should be traced, if possible, from a logical beginning. Future programs might also include some sociological and other aspects.

b. The lecture method appears the most suitable. Future programs might permit use of visual methods, such as motion pictures; in fact, Soviet-produced or Satellite-produced films might be quite appropriate.

c. Two hours a day should be the limit in length; longer sessions would seriously hamper regular operations.

d. Discussion should be encouraged. This program seemed to offer ample opportunity for group participation.

4. A limited amount of collateral reading, suggested bibliographies, etc could be extremely helpful, but preparation of papers or student reports should be avoided as too time-consuming unless they could be made to serve some purpose as part of regular operations.

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